



# The Florida House of Representatives

**Chris Sprowls**  
**Speaker**

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Speaker Chris Sprowls Praises Governor Ron DeSantis for House Bill 1, ‘Combating Public Disorder Act,’ Signing** *Speaker Sprowls: ‘Today we are standing up to mob violence’*

**WINTER HAVEN, Fla.** (April 19, 2021) — Today, Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, praised Governor Ron DeSantis for signing into law House Bill 1, the “Combating Public Disorder Act,” legislation that addresses mob violence and protects local law enforcement and peaceful protests.

“There is nothing more important to me than protecting people and their property and defending our law enforcement officers. And there has been no Governor in America bolder than Governor Ron DeSantis, and for that, I commend him,” said Speaker Sprowls. “Thank you to Representative Juan Fernandez-Barquin and his colleagues who championed this bill through the House, Senate President Simpson and our Senate partners, and Governor DeSantis, whose vision and signature today made this the law of the land. Today we are standing up to mob violence and standing behind our law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day to protect and serve.”

House Bill 1 sponsor, Representative Juan Fernandez-Barquin, R-Miami, added, “My bill protects peaceful protestors, innocent residents, private property and law enforcement. It stiffens penalties for looters and rioters, and preserves our First Amendment rights by clearly differentiating between a rioter and peaceful protestor.”

The law increases legal penalties for violent acts as a result of mob activity, including additional protection for law enforcement for bodily injury, and provides remedy for law enforcement budget reductions.

This legislation became effective immediately upon Governor DeSantis’ signature.

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